

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Robert A. McDonald
Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs
801 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, DC 20571

Secretary McDonald:

It has been brought to our attention that certain members of our armed forces, in particular reservists, utilizing the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill are losing portions and sometimes all of their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) after coming off Title 10 active duty status for the remainder of the month in which they were on active duty.

Some members using the Post 9-11 G.I. bill are required to report on active duty under Title 10 monthly, or on a relatively frequent basis due to their job requirements (i.e. C-17 aircrew, intelligence, UAV/RCP operators). Once that person comes off of active duty for that part of the month, the servicemember loses their MHA for the rest of the month. These reservists are full time students using the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill and rely on the MHA for rent. This repeated monthly loss of MHA has resulted in personal financial troubles for some members, and more importantly, is negatively affecting unit readiness due to reluctance to volunteer knowing that the end result will be a loss in the allowance.

From our understanding, the Department of Veterans Affairs has acknowledged the problem when it was brought to their attention and has begun seeking a solution to rectify the issue through the regulatory process. Your interest and pro-activeness in addressing this matter via internal regulations is appreciated. The relevant regulations pertaining to this matter are: 38 C.F.R. 21.9625(k)(2) and 38 C.F.R. 21.9635(n)(1)(ii).

It is believed that this has occurred primarily, or at least in part, due to the lack of technology at the beginning of the implementation of the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill. Today's Long Term Solution automation capabilities should make it easier to prorate the portion of the month these servicemembers come off of active duty to receive MHA. Service members should not be denied a benefit, nor should unit readiness suffer, due to technology payment issues or inconvenience.

Again, we would appreciate your full attention to this matter and respectfully request a report on the process to implement this change to the Veterans Affairs internal regulations, along with a time frame outlining when the pending changes will be reflected on those members receiving the

prorated MHA. Additionally, we would request that you provide us a plan to address this situation and stop underpayments while regulations are finalized. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-225-1986 or have your staff contact Rocky Checca (Rocky.Checca@mail.house.gov) or Mr. Jon Towers, Staff Director of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs at 202-225-3527.

Sincerely,



KEN CALVERT

Member of Congress



JEFF MILLER

Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs